

## SCHLEY'S EXAMINATION ENDS

WITH A VOLLEY OF SEARCHING QUESTIONS BY THE COURT.

These Questions Related to the Retrospect of the Movement, the Alleged Reconnaissance and the Matter of Coaling—Searching Questions by the Judge Advocate Regarding the "Reconnaissance" of May 31, the Brooklyn's Loop and the Battle of Santiago—Schley Again Denies the Hodgson Colloquy.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—Admiral Schley's ordeal on the witness stand before the Court of Inquiry at the Washington Navy Yard ended to-day after a volley of searching questions by the court. These questions, coming as they did from the officers who will render findings and opinions as to Admiral Schley's conduct in the Spanish-American War and in the subsequent correspondence with Lieutenant-Commander Alton C. Hodgson, were the most interesting of the several hundred queries that have been directed at the commander of the Flying Squadron. By many of those present at the proceedings they were regarded as indicating the leaning of the court on certain matters, but this is too broad a supposition to make. The questions were put by an individual member, and while submitted as from the court collectively, only one of the high ranking officers composing the investigating body is responsible in each case for any sentiment that might appear to have been disclosed by the form in which the query was couched.

Admiral Schley looked surprised when he left the stand after the first question. The physical strain to which he has been subjected must have been tremendous and the mental anxiety of the three days of cross-examination must necessarily have told on him. He had been on the stand five days, and for the first two talked almost continuously, relating the story of the Flying Squadron's experiences in Cuban waters. While he did not at any time lose his remarkable self-control, he occasionally showed signs of perturbation or vexation, gestulating with both hands and abandoning his usual easy manner of speaking.

He did not have a very large audience to-day, due perhaps more to the previous disappointment of most people to be able to place themselves in the position of hearing interest in the inquiry. When the Judge Advocate finished asking his questions, Mr. Rayner announced that there would be no redirec examination, and that he had only one or two witnesses to call. The Judge Advocate has a dozen or more witnesses in rebuttal. It is likely that the proceedings will last until the end of the week.

More than thirty questions were asked by the court. They concerned mainly the retrograde movement, the Colon affair, and the matter of coaling. No questions were asked about the "loop" or the Hodgson correspondence, an indication that the court has heard all the evidence it desires on these matters. Some of the court's inquiries were very direct and searching. One of the most conspicuous of these was why Schley, if he thought the retrograde movement to westward was based on sound military principles, went back to Santiago. His answer was that, having coaled some of his ships, very little time would have been lost, if, on going back, it had not been discovered that the Spanish fleet was not there. He did not explain, however, why he had gone back at all after having left in the confident belief that the Spanish squadron was not in the port.

Other questions related to Admiral Schley's failure to make any effort at Cienfuegos or Santiago, beyond sending in the neutral steamer, Adula, at the first named place, to ascertain whether the Spanish fleet was at that place, the possibility of blocking Santiago for a few days and still having coal enough to reach Key West (and Admiral Schley admitted that it was possible), to the chance that Cervera could have escaped between Schley's squadron and the south coast of Cuba on account of the distance Schley steamed from shore (and Admiral Schley admitted that the enemy stand by the shore at night), to the risk that should have been taken in coaling off Santiago in view of the importance of the situation there; to the conversation between Admiral Schley and Capt. Cotton about coaling ships at Mole St. Nicholas, and to his reasons for directing his ships on May 31 to fire at the Colon if his only purpose was to develop the fortifications at Santiago.

To one question by the court Admiral Schley said that his object in developing the Santiago batteries was to prepare for a possible attempt to force the harbor entrance. Another question was whether his orders did not require him to remain off Santiago, and Admiral Schley admitted that "possibly" they did, but he thought he had discretion as to the matter. The court also wanted to know why he sent such a despatch as that of May 27 to the Navy Department, explaining why he left Santiago, when on the stand he gave other motives that were not mentioned in the report.

In cross-examining Admiral Schley to-day Capt. Lemly confronted him with his despatch to the Navy Department, saying that the affair of May 31 was primarily to destroy the Colon. On the stand Admiral Schley has explained why he did not go nearer the Colon by the statement that the affair was a reconnaissance to develop the batteries at Santiago. His explanation of the telegram was that he had used the word "principally" inadvertently, and that he meant "incidentally." "But," he added, "I will stand by that," apparently referring to "principally."

He said that he did not know the range from the Colon was so great, and thought she was much nearer than she really was, and put the blame for the long range on Capt. (now Rear Admiral) Higginson of the Massachusetts and the navigator of his vessel, Lieutenant-Commander Potts, who testified that Admiral Schley was nervous and appeared to be suffering under great mental excitement during the affair of May 31. The Judge Advocate wanted to know why, after seeing the Colon, Admiral Schley had waited two days before shooting at her, and the Admiral answered that he coaled in the meantime, so that if the reconnaissance made the Spanish ships come out he would be prepared to meet them.

Admiral Schley has stated on the stand that he had personal command of the Brooklyn. The Judge Advocate asked him to-day how it was then that Capt. Cook gave the "loop" order. Admiral Schley answered that Cook did this under general instructions not to get within torpedo distance of the enemy, but the Admiral added that he assumed absolute responsibility for that maneuver. He said also that he never heard until two months after the battle that the Texas had backed her engine to prevent being run down by the Brooklyn.

NEW REASON FOR THE LOOP. Admiral Schley gave a new reason for the loop during the cross-examination. It was that the Brooklyn "might continue in action and meet the enemy." This was perhaps the most important of all reasons, he explained, but he had never given the reason before. He had considered it self-evident. "There are other reasons which might be conjured," said the Admiral. The Judge Advocate, however, did not ask Admiral Schley to conjure up any more reasons, but confronted him with his statement to the Senate that the loop was made to prevent the Brooklyn from turning her broadside to possible torpedo attack by the enemy, and then asked these questions and answers:

Q. Which of these various reasons did you have in mind at that time? A. Probably all of them and others.

Q. What I was getting to is which of those reasons did you have at the time when you approved of this turn with a port helm? A. Well, I say, probably all of them and more. I do not know that I can remember every one. The fact that it was successful seems to me—

"I beg your pardon," interrupted the Judge Advocate, "that is argument, and we do not want argument."

Very few questions were asked Admiral Schley by the Judge Advocate about the retrograde movement, the Brooklyn and the subsequent correspondence with Lieutenant-Commander Hodgson. He denied again that there had been any colloquy, but admitted that he had written a letter about the Texas and that he (Schley) had seen her. He said he could not remember anything else about his conversation with Hodgson. In regard to the retrograde movement, Mr. Hodgson's letter denying that the colloquy had occurred, while not published accompanying a letter from Hodgson admitting that the retrograde movement was made, was substantially correct, Admiral Schley said. The retrograde movement, he said, was a tactical decision, and he had given him the categorical denial had been given by him to the Washington Post because it was confirmed by the accompanying letter.

Q. Do you not mean that the accompanying letter was confirmatory of the categorical letter? asked the Judge Advocate.

"Yes," was Admiral Schley's answer.

Capt. Lemly wanted to know what Admiral Schley had done to place Mr. Hodgson right before the country, and asked this answer: "I did not do anything, because the Department had ordered an investigation and that stopped me from doing anything."

SCHLEY'S CROSS-EXAMINATION RESUMED.

"You are still under oath," said Admiral Dewey when Admiral Schley took the stand to-day. He resumed his cross-examination, immediately taking up the blockade of Santiago by the Flying Squadron.

By Judge Advocate.

Q. Admiral, the Iowa was not with you at Hampton Roads when you had the conference with the captains? A. No.

Q. I did not see Capt. Evans at any conference with your commander [Capt. Evans]? A. I think not. I was not until we got off Santiago that I had another conference.

Q. Did you impart to him at any time the verbal order of battle to which you were testifying? The first time that I fell in with Capt. Evans he was disabled and his executive officer, Lieutenant-Commander Rodgers, acted for him. I don't remember seeing him say anything to him or not about it. I didn't see Capt. Evans again until we got off Santiago. I talked a good deal with Mr. Rodgers, but don't recall specially what was said.

Q. Can you state how the number of blocking vessels in your squadron prior to June 1 compared with those on the West-Indies? A. I don't know. I am based on testimony of Capt. William M. Folger of the New Orleans, that he had advised Admiral Schley to coalesce a circular blockade of Santiago such as the Japanese established at Wei-Hai-Wei. A. No, I do not know that I can give that. I think, however, that the blockade to which he referred as circular in form contained a larger number of vessels than my squadron prior to June 1. I don't know the number of vessels, to the starboard and the port. The impression he left was that they had a great many more ships than I had.

Q. In a circular blockade, with the vessels pointing in toward the mouth of the harbor, are they not in a good position to turn round any chase in the harbor, if the enemy's fleet comes out, provided they all turn the same helm?

Mr. Rayner—Is that question in reference to the subsequent blockade of Santiago, after June 1?

The Judge Advocate—Not at all. It is a general question based on the discussion between the Admiral and Capt. Folger with reference to the adoption of the circular blockade as suggested by Capt. Folger.

Admiral Schley—I think that I stated in my direct testimony that a squadron arranged circularly about a port and charged the enemy would have done it at night; to the risk that should have been taken in coaling off Santiago in view of the importance of the situation there; to the conversation between Admiral Schley and Capt. Cotton about coaling ships at Mole St. Nicholas, and to his reasons for directing his ships on May 31 to fire at the Colon if his only purpose was to develop the fortifications at Santiago.

Q. You have stated that no vessel passed the blockade, either going in or coming out, until after the battle of June 1. Is that correct? A. I stated that that was my conclusion.

Q. That whether or not, within your knowledge, any vessel attempted to pass in or out, in the blockade of either of those ports? A. None that I know of. I am sure that no vessel attempted to pass in or out, in the blockade of either of those ports, until after the battle of June 1. I stated that that was my conclusion.

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Q. You had been off Santiago two days when you made this reconnaissance, as you term it, had you not? A. Yes.

Q. Why did you wait two days before making any effort to coalesce the blockade? I asked myself of the possibility, on all occasions when it was possible, in shooting on it. I thought it was very much better to get into the blockade in the event that the reconnaissance I intended should develop the fact that the enemy might come out.

Q. You were still coaling on the 31st, were you not? A. Yes, on part of the vessel.

Q. That was the part of the squadron that was not engaged in the bombardment or reconnaissance? A. Yes, they were the Brooklyn, the Texas, and I think the Massachusetts.

Admiral Schley said he did not remember saying on May 30, as Lieut. Sharp testified, "The Admiral (Schley) will be here tomorrow, and that if he did say it, it was simply a mistake."

THE RECONNAISSANCE OF MAY 31. Asked to tell what conversations he had in the Massachusetts after he went aboard that ship for the "reconnaissance," the Admiral said:

"I talked of a great many things with the Captain while we were below at night, they may have been important or not. I recollect his asking me if we would not defer the pending bombardment until after the morning, about 10 o'clock, which, of course, I agreed to. We went up on deck and went into a chart house where there was a conversation about the reconnaissance. I don't recall of any distinctness as to what we were going to do. I remember Mr. Potts told him that we were on the range, but beyond that I do not recollect anything. I recollect that we were talking about it. I recollect at the same time directing a signal to be made to the New Orleans. I don't recall of any distinctness as to what we were going to do. I remember Mr. Potts told him that we were on the range, but beyond that I do not recollect anything. I recollect that we were talking about it. I recollect at the same time directing a signal to be made to the New Orleans. 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